TAKE A HIBISCUS - Rosalie Wylie

Propogating Hibiscus is a fascinating thing to most any gardener who wishes to increase his supply of plants or add another variety to his collection. Let us look to see what types of propogation there are and also what takes place in the forming of the "new plant".

Seed-bearing plants consist of three vegetative parts, roots, stems and leaves. Each of these parts serves in its own way to contribute to the growth of the entire plant.

The roots serve to anchor the plant in the medium, (usually soil), absorb water and essential minerals and in some cases to store large quantities of reserve food materials.

The leaves function in the exchange of gases (both Carbon Dioxide and Oxygen) as the chief area of photosynthesis (Carbohydrate manufacture) and of transpiration (evaporation of water) and in some instances for the synthesis of Auxin (a plant hormone), Vitamin B-1 and other organic materials.

The stem is the connecting link between the roots and leaves through which water and minerals are translocated from the roots to the leaves and the growing points, and through which Carbohydrates and other elaborated Organic materials may be translocated to the roots. The stems may also possess Chlorophyll and stomata (any of various small apertures, especially one of the minute slits in the epidermis) and to a

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People who love Hibiscus
see the beautiful and look for
the beautiful. Encourage your
neighbors to grow them and see
the beauty we see.

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HIBISCUS SUITABLE FOR THE NORTH GULF COAST

lesser extent than the leaves, photosynthesis, transpiration and the exchange of gasses may occur.

At the tip of each stem and root are growing points, where, during the growing season, the formation and enlargement of new cells result in the continued growth of stem and root. When the stem tip is cut off, as in making a terminal cutting, some or all of the numerous internal processes are altered or interrupted. Water and minerals which normally were absorbed through the roots must now be taken into the plant primarily through the cut surface of the stem. For the most part, much less water is absorbed through the cut surface than had been taken in by the roots. If transpiration from the leaves continues unabated, wilting occurs. There is a reduction in the exchange of gasses, photosynthesis and other processes of the leaf when the plant is in a wilted condition. Part of the materials which are normally translocated to the roots may be reached from the stems but it has been found that there is a build-up in the quantity of many materials in the stem above the cut.

Regardless of whether a root develops from a stem, a leaf or another root, it develops inside the parent structure. Such internal origin is said to be endogenous.

The tissue found in a cross section consists of four major areas:

1. An extensive pith in the center of the stem.
2. A ring of vascular bundles surrounding the pith.
3. A narrow cortex of the outside of the vascular bundles.

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